

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /066 W
----- 012754

P R 041600Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3192

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

FAA BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2891

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR

SUBJECT: INDIAN AIRLINES RE-EQUIPMENT

REF: NEW DELHI 2621; BEIRUT 2584

1. LOCKHEED-CALIFORNIA (BURBANK) INFORMED LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT MIDEAST (BEIRUT) LAST NIGHT THAT PRESENT INDICATIONS POINT TO FINAL IA AIRCRAFT ACQUISITION DECISION BY MARCH 31 BUT THAT GOI, NOT INDIAN AIRLINES, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, WILL DECIDE MATTER.

2. ACCORDING LOCKHEED-CALIFORNIA, CHOCES AVAILABLE TO GOI ARE FOLLOWING:

A. ACQUISITION ADDITIONAL NARROW-BODIED EQUIPMENT ADVANCED 727-200, ADVANCED 737-200, 727-300B).

B. AIRBUS INDUSTRIE A-300 B2'S.

C. U.S. WIDE-BODIED TRIJETS (L-1011-1, DC-10-10)

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3. RCAA SOMEWHAT CONCERNED BY REPORT DECISION RESTS WITH GOI,
RATHER THAN INDIAN AIRLINES, LEAVING WAY OPEN FOR
POSSIBLE POLITICALLY-MOTIVATED A-300B DECISION NOT BASED
ON MERITS OF COMPETING AIRCRAFT. WOULD APPRECIATE
EMBASSY NEW DELHI INDICATIONS WHETHER OR NOT LOCKHEED-
CALIFORNIA ASSESSMENT PARA 1 AND PARA 2 ACCURATE,
PARTICULARLY SINCE INDIAN AIRLINES CHAIRMAN LAL INDICATED
PREVIOUSLY DECISION WILL BE BASED ON AIRCRAFT MERIT, NOT
POLITICAL RATIONALE.
HOUGHTON

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NNN

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